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U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic
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For information contact:

Haydn Mearkle (301) 763-2246
Nick Orsini (301) 763-2311

Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products
December 2002

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary December steel imports were **\$1.0 billion (2.5 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and an increase of 0.1 million metric tons from the preliminary November totals of \$1.0 billion (2.4 million metric tons).

The November to December change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in wire rods and hot rolled sheets. A decrease occurred primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with China and Turkey. Decreases occurred primarily with India, Mexico, and South Africa.

The year to date final statistics through November 2002 showed steel imports of 27.0 million metric tons, an increase of 1.7 million metric tons from the 25.3 million metric tons through November 2001. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; and hot rolled sheets. The largest country increases were with Canada, Brazil and Mexico.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is February 25, 2003